

REMARKS

Applicants filed a response to the Final Rejection of March 14, 2003 on July 14, 2003. A RCE was filed on August 11, 2003 to ensure that the July 14 Response was entered. An Advisory Action issued on August 13, 2003 (apparently crossing in the mail with the Request for Continued Examination).

Applicants believe that the arguments made in the July 14 Response show that the claimed invention is not disclosed or suggested by the cited references. Those arguments are incorporated herein by reference. This Amendment is intended to supplement that Response.

In order to advance the prosecution of this application, Applicants are amending each of the independent claims to include the recital “wherein a light generated in said EL layer is emitted to said cover material side.”

In the Final Rejection and Advisory Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Antoniadis in view of Onitsuka. The Examiner also rejects Claims 5-12 under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Shibata et al. in view of Onitsuka et al., further in view of Codama and Arai. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The claimed invention is directed to a self light-emitting device and includes the recital that each of the EL layer and the transparent electrode has a film thickness (d) in which there is no occurrence of a guided light.

Applicants respectfully submit that none of the references cited by the Examiner disclose that a film thickness of the EL layer and the transparent electrode such that there is no occurrence of a

guided light. Hence, none of the references cited by the Examiner disclose or suggest the idea that a light waveguided in the EL layer and the transparent electrode is extinguished.

In the Final Rejection, the Examiner contends that this is taught in Antoniadis but does not cite where in the reference this teaching is allegedly found. Applicants have not found such a teaching in the reference and respectfully submit that it is not taught by the references.

Further, as Applicants previously explained, while Onitsuka shows an inert gas filled in space between an electrode (D15) and a cover material (D20 or D50), Onitsuka discloses a configuration wherein a light emission emanates on a substrate side (i.e. a transparent electrode on a substrate, an EL layer over the transparent electrode, and an opaque electrode over the EL layer). This is not only different than the amended claimed invention, which recites that the light generated in the EL layer is emitted to the cover material side, but also different than the structure disclosed in Antoniadis, Shibata and Codama (all which have a top emission, i.e. an opaque electrode over a substrate, an EL layer over the opaque electrode and a transparent electrode over the EL layer). Hence, it is not proper to combine Onitsuka with these other references, and even if arguably combined, so that the light emission direction of Antoniadis becomes the same as Onitsuka, the order of the opaque electrode, the EL layer, and the transparent electrode do not coincide between the two references.

Applicants also respectfully submit that the paragraph at col. 6, ln. 61 et seq. of Onitsuka does not provide the sufficient teaching to combine the reference as there is no disclosure or suggestion in the reference of top emission.

Accordingly, for at least the above-stated reasons, the claimed invention of the present application is clearly not disclosed or suggested by the cited references. Hence, the claims are

patentable over the cited references. Therefore, it is requested that these rejections now be withdrawn.


Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in a condition for allowance, and accordingly, it is requested that it now be allowed.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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